



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Faculty of Music

presents

WILMA & CLIFFORD SMITH VISITOR IN MUSIC
DONALD MITCHELL

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1999 AT 12 PM

**"Musics East & West:
Cultures Vertical & Horizontal"**

In *Musics East and West: Cultures Vertical and Horizontal* Donald Mitchell talks about the Musics of East and West and discusses their strongly contrasted treatment of the horizontal—melodic—and vertical—harmonic—components of music. Looking Eastwards, he concentrates on the polyphony that can be excavated from the idea of the rhythmically displaced union—heterophony—while suggesting that from the viewpoint of the West, the idea of canon in particular may present a meeting point. His examples range widely, opening with Wagner and closing with music from Thailand. En route, music by Mahler, Schoenberg and Britten, among others, is heard.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1999 AT 5 PM

"Ironies of Love and Death"

In *Ironies of Love and Death* Donald Mitchell attempts to define the concept of irony in music, how we recognize it, how composers use it, what are its essential identifying characteristics. For his musical examples Donald Mitchell draws on wide and diverse sources, among them Mozart (*Così*), Monteverdi, Shostakovich and Britten (*Death in Venice* and *Owen Wingrave*)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1999 AT 2:30 PM

Britten Symposium

A discussion of two vastly different Britten operas, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Rape of Lucretia*, with members of the Faculty of Music Opera Division and the Canadian Opera Company.
Sponsored by The British Council.

1999-2000 Season Media Sponsor



Biography

Donald Mitchell has spent much of his working and leisure life on two composers, Gustav Mahler and Benjamin Britten. He has contributed many articles about the composers to the musical press and was co-author (with Paul Banks) of the Mahler entry in the *New Grove* of 1980. The Bruckner Society of America presented him with its Gustav Mahler of Honour in 1961. In 1987 the International Gustav Mahler Society in Vienna awarded him the Mahler-Medaille. In 1995 a *Festschrift* entitled *On Mahler and Britten* was published in honour of Donald Mitchell's 70th birthday (Boydell & Brewer and University of Rochester Press).

He founded and directed the music course which began at the University of Sussex in 1969, and from 1971 to 1976 he was the first Professor of Music there. He remains a Visiting Professor of the University and now holds the same position at the University of York where he was awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University in 1990; King's College, University of London, has recently also conferred upon Donald Mitchell the title of Visiting Professor in the Department of Music. His association with Faber Music dates from its foundation in 1965 (he became Chairman in 1977 and subsequently President), and was Director of Academic Studies at the Britten-Pears School for Advanced Musical Studies at Snape Máltings 1977-1990. For some years he has been a member of the Board of Governors of the Royal Academy of Music and on Graduation Day, 3 July 1992, was appointed an Honorary Member of the Academy. Dr. Mitchell became a Director of the Performing Right Society in 1971 and Chairman from 1989 to 1992. In October 1992 he was elected Vice-President of the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers, and served the society for the next three years.

In addition to the three volumes of his Mahler study, *The Early Years*, *The Wunderhorn Years* and *Songs and Symphonies of Life and Death*, Donald Mitchell's books include: *Benjamin Britten: A Commentary on his Works* (with Hans Keller); *The Mozart Companion* (with H C Robbins Landon); *The Language of Modern Music*; an important annotated edition of Alma Mahler's *Memories and Letters*; *Benjamin Britten: Pictures from a Life, 1913-1976* (with John Evans), *Britten and Auden in the Thirties* (The T S Eliot Memorial Lectures for 1979, delivered in the University of Kent at Canterbury); and the one-volume edition of the polemical magazine he edited with Hans Keller in the 1940s and 1950s, *Music Survey*.

Donald Mitchell continues to write, to broadcast and to participate in television documentaries on Mahler and Britten. In June, 1991, the first two volumes of the *Selected Letters and Diaries of Benjamin Britten*, edited by Dr. Mitchell and Philip Reed, were published and in May of 1992 received a Royal Philharmonic Society Award. *Cradles of the New*, a major selection of his writings on music over forty years, was published in February 1995. In May 1995 the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, hosted a Mahler Festival marking the 75th anniversary of Mengelberg's 1920 Festival. Donald Mitchell was executive chairman of the symposium, *Gustav Mahler: the World Listens*, editor-in-chief of the Festival Programme Book and co-author, with Edward Reilly, of the texts accompanying the published facsimile of Mahler's Seventh Symphony. The Concertgebouw's concert season of 1996/97 included a series of concerts devised by Donald Mitchell presenting the music of Britten and Shostakovich in juxtaposition. His most recent publication is *New Sounds, New Century*, a study of Mahler's Fifth Symphony published by the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Amsterdam in 1997 in association with THOTH Publishers Bussum. This year, 1999, Oxford University Press will publish *The Mahler Companion*, edited by Donald Mitchell and Andrew Nicholson, in the main a massive survey of the composer's works but also including some new biographical material and accounts of the global reception of his music.